CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A computer-readable medium storing processor executable components and processor readable data that facilitate configuring an image forming device to process alerts, comprising:

a data store configured to store an address of one or more of, a configuration server, a posting server, and a communication server;

a setup logic configured to communicate a setup data for configuring one or more of, the image forming device, and the configuration server, where the setup data is communicated between the image forming device and the configuration server whose address is stored in the data store; and

a configuration logic configured to automatically configure the image forming device to process alerts handled by one or more of, the image forming device, the posting server, and the communication server based, at least in part, on the setup data.

2. The computer-readable medium of claim 1, where:

the setup logic comprises Java instructions configured to communicate the setup data; and

the configuration logic comprises Java instructions configured to automatically configure the image forming device.

3. The computer-readable medium of claim 2, where the image forming device employs a JVM to process Java instructions.

4. The computer-readable medium of claim 1, including processor executable components and processor readable data of a posting logic configured to selectively communicate a posting data for communicating information associated with an alert between the image forming device and the posting server based, at least in part, on the setup data, where the address of the posting server is stored in the data store.

5. The computer-readable medium of claim 1, where the configuration logic is further configured to:

select a posting server with which a posting data for communicating information associated with the alert will be communicated and automatically configuring the image forming device to post the posting data to the posting server; and

select a communication server to distribute an electronic communication associated with the posting data and to automatically configure the image forming device to direct the posting server to utilize the communication server to distribute the electronic communication.

6. The computer-readable medium of claim 5, where the configuration logic is further configured to associate the alert with a device event.

7. The computer-readable medium of claim 6, where the device event concerns one or more of, a toner low state, a toner empty state, a paper jam state, an overheating state, a print job interrupted state, a print job completed state, an online state, and an offline state.

8. The computer-readable medium of claim 5, where the setup data includes one or more of, an alert type identifier, a set of alert recipient identifiers, an image forming device address, a posting server address, and a communication server address.

9. The computer-readable medium of claim 5, where the posting data includes one or more of, an alert type, an alert data, a set of alert recipient identifiers, an image forming device address, and a posting acknowledgment.

10. The computer-readable medium of claim 1, including processor executable components and processor readable data of a user interface logic configured to facilitate communicating configuration information between a user and the system.

11. An ASIC having stored thereon:

a data store configured to store an address of one or more of, a configuration server, a posting server, and a communication server;

a setup logic configured to communicate a setup data for configuring one or more of, an image forming device, and the configuration server, where the setup data is communicated

between the image forming device and the configuration server whose address is stored in the data store; and

a configuration logic configured to automatically configure the image forming device to process alerts handled by one or more of, the image forming device, the posting server, and the communication server based, at least in part, on the setup data.

12. A computer-readable medium storing processor executable components and processor readable data that facilitate configuring an image forming device to process alerts, comprising:

a data store configured to store an address of the image-forming device to be automatically configured;

a setup logic configured to communicate a setup data for configuring one or more of, the image forming device, and a configuration server, where the setup data is communicated between the image forming device and the configuration server; and

a selection logic configured to:

select a posting server to provide an alert posting service for the image forming device based, at least in part, on the setup data;

automatically configure the image forming device to post a posting data for communicating information associated with an alert to the posting server;

select a communication server to provide an electronic communication distribution service for the image forming device based, at least in part, on the setup data; and

automatically configure the image forming device to direct the posting server to utilize the selected communication server.

13. The computer-readable medium of claim 12, where the alert is associated with a device event.

14. The computer-readable medium of claim 13, where the device event concerns one or more of, a toner low state, a toner empty state, a paper jam state, an overheating state, a print job interrupted state, a print job completed state, an online state, and an offline state.

15. The computer-readable medium of claim 12, where the setup data includes one or more of, an alert type identifier, a set of alert recipient identifiers, an image forming device address, a posting server address, and a communication server address.

16. The computer-readable medium of claim 12, where the posting data includes one or more of, an alert message type, an alert message data, a set of alert recipient identifiers, and an acknowledgment.

17. The computer-readable medium of claim 12 including processor executable components and processor readable data of a query logic configured to query the image forming device for non-alert posting data.

18. A system that facilitates configuring an image forming device to process alerts, comprising:

an enabled image forming device that includes an alert configuration logic configured to automatically configure the image forming device; and

a configuration server that includes a configuration logic that facilitates automatically configuring the image forming device to process alerts.

19. The system of claim 18, where the image forming device is configured to process Java instructions.

20. The system of claim 18, where the alert configuration logic comprises:

an image forming device memory configured to store an address of one or more of, a configuration server, a posting server, and a communication server;

an image forming device setup logic configured to communicate a setup data for configuring one or more of, the image forming device, and the configuration server between the image forming device and the configuration server; and

an image forming device configuration logic configured to automatically configure the image forming device to process alerts based, at least in part, on the setup data.

21. The system of claim 20, where the configuration logic includes:

a configuration server setup logic configured to communicate the setup data with the image forming device;

a configuration server selection logic configured to select a communication server to provide an electronic communication distribution service for the image forming device and to select a posting server to provide an alert posting service for the image forming device based, at least in part, on the setup data;

a configuration server translation logic configured to receive a posting data for communicating information associated with the alert and to generate an electronic communication based, at least in part, on the posting data; and

a configuration server communication logic configured to communicate the electronic communication to the communication server.

22. The system of claim 21, where the alert configuration logic is configured to:

establish a level of user interaction in a configuration process;

select a posting server with which the posting data will be communicated and automatically configure the image forming device to interact with the posting server; and

select a communication server to distribute an electronic communication associated with the posting data and to automatically configure the image forming device to direct the posting server to interact with the communication server.

23. A method for configuring an image forming device to process alerts, comprising:

communicating a startup data to a configuration server, the startup data identifying an image forming device;

automatically selecting, based at least in part on the startup data, a posting server and automatically configuring the image forming device to post an alert data to the posting server;

automatically selecting, based at least in part on the startup data, a communication server; and

automatically configuring the image forming device to direct the posting server to employ the communication server to distribute an electronic notification produced in response to the alert data being posted to the posting server.

24. The method of claim 23, where the startup data includes one or more of, a printer address, an alert type identifier, and a recipient email address.

25. The method of claim 23, where the alert data includes one or more of, an alert identifier, an alert type, an alert message, and an alert recipient.

26. The method of claim 23, where the electronic notification comprises an email message.

27. The method of claim 23, comprising:

determining a degree to which the image forming device is to be automatically configured by presenting an automatic configuration choice to a user.

28. A computer-readable medium storing processor executable instructions operable to perform a method, the method comprising:

communicating a startup data to a configuration server, the startup data identifying an image forming device;

automatically selecting, based at least in part on the startup data, a posting server and automatically configuring the image forming device to post an alert data to the posting server;

automatically selecting, based at least in part on the startup data, a communication server; and

automatically configuring the image forming device to direct the posting server to employ the communication server to distribute an electronic notification produced in response to the alert data being posted to the posting server.

29. A method for providing configuration information to an alert generating printer, comprising:

receiving a startup signal from the printer;

negotiating a level of automatic configuration service for the printer;

selecting a posting server to provide an alert posting service for the printer;

selecting a communication server to provide an electronic message distribution service for the printer; and

communicating to the printer a configuration data related to the posting server and the communication server.

30. The method of claim 29, comprising:

detecting a state change in one or more of, the posting server, and the communication server;

selecting one or more of, an alternate posting server and an alternate communication server; and

communicating to the printer a reconfiguration data related to one or more of, the state change, the alternate posting server, and the alternate communication server.

31. In a printer having a graphical user interface comprising a display and a selection device, a method of providing and selecting from a set of data entries on the display, the method comprising:

retrieving a set of data entries that represent a choice concerning how a printer should be configured to process alerts;

displaying the set of data entries on the display;

receiving a data entry selection signal indicative of the selection device selecting a selected data entry; and

in response to the data entry selection signal, initiating an operation associated with configuring the printer based on the selected data entry.

32. A data packet for transmitting data between an image forming device and an alert configuration server, comprising:

a first field that stores an address of an alert configuration server that facilitates automatically configuring the image forming device to process alerts;

a second field that stores an address of a posting server that will provide a posting service for the image forming device; and

a third field that stores an address of a communication server that will provide a communication service for the image forming device.

33. An image forming device, comprising:

an alert logic configured to transmit alert data to a communication server by way of a posting server in response to a device event;

a setup logic configured to determine a communication server capable of distributing an electronic alert message; and

a configuration logic configured to automatically re-configure the alert logic to transmit the alert data to the communication server determined by the setup logic.

34. The device of claim 33, where the setup logic is configured to execute periodically.

35. The device of claim 33, where the setup logic is configured to execute in response to the image forming device being powered on.

36. The device of claim 33, where the setup logic is further configured to determine a posting server capable of processing the alert data and where the configuration logic re-configures the alert logic to transmit alert data to the posting server and causes the posting server to transmit the alert data to the communication server.

37. A system, comprising:

means for communicating a configuration data with a configuration server; and

means for automatically configuring a printer for to process alerts based, at least in part, on the configuration data.